

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 21 March 2018

**OHSAS 18001 HEALTH & SAFETY AND ISO 14001 ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT AUDIT REPORTS
(Appendices 1 and 2 refer)**

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Executive Summary

In 2011 Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was successful in certification to ISO 14001 the International Standard for Environmental Management Systems and OHSAS 18001 the Health and Safety Management System standard. Each year surveillance audits are carried out to ensure that the standards continue to be adhered to and to ensure continuous improvements are made. Every three years LFRS has to apply for re-certification to maintain the standards.

On 13 February 2018 both standards were recommended for continued certification following a re-certification audit. To achieve and maintain these standards at the same time clearly demonstrates that robust systems are in place for both Health and Safety and the Environment.

Recommendation

The Resources Committee is requested to note the report.

Background

OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001 are international best practice standards for how organisations manage Health & Safety and the Environment. The specifications give requirements for an occupational health and safety / environmental management system, to enable an organisation to control its risks and improve performance.

Commencing 6 February 2018 LFRS was audited for six days to continue certification to the above standards. The British Assessment Bureau (BAB) was invited to carry out a re-certification audit in LFRS against the two standards following the initial certification achieved in 2011 and re-certification in 2014. The scope for both standards was '**The Provision of Fire, Rescue and Supporting Services across Lancashire**'. This included all operational activity with visits to four fire stations operating different duty systems and Service Training Centre together with a number of supporting departments including Safety, Health and Environment, Corporate Communications, Fleet and Engineering Services and Property.

Continued certification has been granted for both OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001, attached are the two audit reports. One opportunity for improvement has been received for each standard "An improvement is planned for LFRS documentation management using the "Sharepoint" system; it was observed that the SHE documents were version controlled but in other areas some documents did not include full version control".

As part of the audit process, the auditors identified a number of positive aspects, including:

- The smooth transition from the old ISO 14001:2004 to the new ISO 14001:2015 standard.
- The systems are embedded into how we work.
- Leadership and commitment was displayed in all areas visited/sampled.
- Extremely knowledgeable and committed staff who were interviewed.
- The systems are continually being improved and are not flat lining.
- The internal audit plan is thorough and comprehensive.

As part of the audit, a number of additional areas for improvement were identified and it is intended that all these are developed into an 'improvement action plan' and taken forward through the Service's Health, Safety and Environment Advisory Group.

Business Risk

To be successful in certification to the International standards for health & safety and the environment, which can only be achieved through independent audits, clearly confirms that robust health & safety and environmental systems are in place thus reducing the risk to LFRS and the potential for prosecution.

Environmental Impact

The environmental impact throughout LFRS has reduced significantly with the introduction of the environmental management system. The audit report clearly demonstrates that LFRS environmental impact is reduced to its lowest level with clear identification of positive impact through community safety and operational environmental protection activity.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None identified.

Financial Implications

Costs included in SHE departmental budget.

Human Resource Implications

None identified.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
OHSAS 18001 Health & Safety and ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Assessment Audit Reports	13-02-12 28-11-14 27-11-15 30-11-16	Bob Warren, Director of People and Development
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		